



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Elisa Bupara
(916) 263-1044

Eleni Tsakopoulos-Kounalakis Appointed to First 5 California Commission

Northern California Businesswoman to Help Expand Opportunities for State's Children and Families

(Sacramento, CA) – First 5 California announced today that Senate President pro Tem Don Perata has appointed Eleni Tsakopoulos-Kounalakis to the First 5 California Commission. Tsakopoulos-Kounalakis will become the seventh member of the Commission, which supports a wide-range of critical services for young children and their families across California. She will serve until December 2010.

"We are proud to welcome a woman as intelligent, hardworking and devoted to the betterment of California as Eleni Tsakopoulos-Kounalakis," said Hector Ramirez, chair of the Commission. "We believe her energy and drive will help make for a stronger State Commission."

Tsakopoulos-Kounalakis is currently president of AKT Development Corporation, a land development company based in Sacramento. During her tenure, the company has expanded rapidly to a nearly \$1 billion enterprise, prompting *Sacramento Magazine* to name her one of the region's most powerful women in 2003.

She is also a devoted philanthropist. Tsakopoulos-Kounalakis serves as a trustee to a number of organizations including the Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism, the World Conference on Religion and Peace, and the San Francisco War Memorial Opera Board. A strong advocate for public education, she has adopted Sacramento's Cesar Chavez Intermediate School, helping to develop their library and computer lab.

Tsakopoulos-Kounalakis received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English Literature from Dartmouth College. She later earned a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of California, Berkeley Haas School of Business. A native of Sacramento, she now lives in San Francisco with her husband Markos Kounalakis and two sons, ages five and six.

About First 5 California

First 5 California, also known as the California Children and Families Commission, was established after voters passed Proposition 10 in November 1998, adding a 50 cents-per-pack tax on cigarettes to fund education, health, childcare and other programs for expectant parents and children up to age 5. For more information please visit <http://www.ccfc.ca.gov>.